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Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, including measures and recommendations agreed upon at its mid-term review

Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Progress report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 51/32 of 6 December 1996 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). It focuses mainly on activities/initiatives as reported by the organizations of the United Nations system, including also activities of Member States — African and donor countries, wherever such information was available. In view of the paramount importance given to the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the New Agenda, an addendum to this report (A/55/350/Add.1) is devoted to this issue.

Following the introduction, section II of the report reviews progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the mid-term review since the last progress report submitted to the General Assembly in September 1998 (A/53/390). In the area of economic reforms, the majority of African countries have made substantial progress in putting in place the appropriate macroeconomic policies. Similarly, considerable progress has been achieved in implementing the recommendations of the mid-term review in the promotion of the private sector and

* The present report was submitted after 5 July 2000 as the inputs for its preparation had not been received from all organizations of the United Nations system and as it was further necessary to receive comments from these organizations in order to finalize the report.

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the intensification of the democratization process and the strengthening of the civil society. However, there is considerable room for improvement in these areas, and efforts need to be intensified to build on and sustain the positive achievements in these areas. In the area of foreign direct investment (FDI), Africa is still far behind other developing regions in attracting private flows. Similarly, recommendations relating to the effective resolution of Africa's debt problem have not been fully implemented despite the various initiatives, including the introduction of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Thus, much more needs to be done to implement the recommendations of the mid-term review in the critical area of development finance.

Similarly, in the areas of trade facilitation and market access, progress has been rather limited owing largely to the supply constraints, including the lack of competitiveness of African products. Not much has happened in the area of diversification of African economies in terms of concrete action by Africa's development partners to implement the recommendations of the mid-term review. In the areas of agriculture and food production as well as the human dimension, including education, health, population, gender and so forth, significant progress has been achieved, especially in the education and health sectors. However, food production remains inadequate in many African countries and the gains made in the recent years in the area of the human dimension are still below the levels of the 1980s. The spread and effects of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, are further compromising some of these gains, particularly in human resource development and the health sector.

Progress has also been made in the implementation of the recommendations of the mid-term review in the area of the environment and development. However, high and increasing levels of poverty and armed conflicts in some African countries continue to adversely affect the environment. Therefore, efforts need to be intensified in this area to further implement the recommendations of the mid-term review, especially in combating drought and desertification. Significant efforts have been made to implement the recommendations in the areas of regional/subregional integration and cooperation, and South-South cooperation. More needs to be done to strengthen the institutional capacity for regional cooperation as well as promote South-South cooperation through trade and investment opportunities in African countries.

Notwithstanding significant achievements in many areas of the New Agenda since the last progress report in 1998, a number of factors continue to constrain the effective implementation of the recommendations of the mid-term review. The way forward, as discussed in section III of this report, lies in sustained efforts to overcome three major constraints. Firstly, African countries need to significantly increase their share in the global trade. To that effect, they should improve their supply capacity through diversification of their productive base combined with the reduction of their transaction costs, the effective use of information and communications technology and the improvement of related infrastructure. They should also put in place and maintain appropriate macroeconomic policies to attract FDI, upgrade the skills of people and invest in human resource development. Secondly, African countries need to improve their domestic savings and investment through increased revenue mobilization and improved financial intermediation. At the same time, additional resources should be provided to African countries by the

international community. In this regard, net aggregate resource flows to the continent need to be sharply increased. Official development assistance (ODA) remains critical for the improvement in areas including physical infrastructure and social services. Thirdly, African countries should engage in total combat against the HIV/AIDS pandemic which is eroding most gains made since political independence and is threatening their very survival.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 51/32 of 6 December 1996 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[1] conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested that, pending the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda in the year 2002, progress reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the mid-term review be submitted to it at its fifty-third and fifty-fifth sessions. In response to this request, a report was submitted in September 1998 (A/53/390) to the fifty-third session of the Assembly. This present progress report is submitted in full compliance with the request of Assembly resolution 51/32. It is the last progress report before the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda in 2002, in which an independent evaluation has been requested by the Assembly in its resolution 54/234.

2. Following the mid-term review which noted the complementarity to the New Agenda of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, launched by the Secretary-General in March 1996, and considered it an impetus for the implementation of the New Agenda, the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) at its thirty-seventh session in 1997, formally established the Special Initiative as an implementing arm of the New Agenda. Subsequently, at the request of CPC, progress reports on the implementation of the Special Initiative were submitted to it at its thirty-eighth to fortieth sessions in spring 1998, 1999 and 2000. These progress reports (E/AC.51/1998/7, E/AC.51/1999/6 and E/AC.51/2000/6) have served as background materials for the preparation of this report. Particularly relevant were information and analysis provided in these reports on the areas of education, health, governance, information technology, population and gender, trade access and opportunities, economic diversification, regional cooperation and integration, water, food security, environment and South-South cooperation. Also relevant in the context of the preparation of this progress report was the report submitted in 1999 to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (A/54/133-E/1999/79) on, inter alia, the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 Secretary-General's report to the Security Council and the Assembly on "The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". Information provided by the organizations of the United Nations system in the context of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the General Assembly on Africa established to monitor the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations was also useful in the preparation of this report.

3. This progress report has a particular focus on the activities carried out by the United Nations system. Discussions of initiatives and activities undertaken by Member States themselves, be they the recipient countries of Africa or the donor countries, have been included wherever such information was available. It has been assumed that a systematic effort to collect information and data from Member States is mainly needed for the final review and appraisal of the New Agenda. In view of the need for the report to be concise and pointed, it was necessary to select from among many activities and initiatives undertaken those that were salient, to avoid details and to limit analysis to snapshots.

4. Following the introduction (sect. I), the report reviews progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of the mid-term review since the last progress report submitted in September 1998. The review is carried out in conformity with the priority areas retained by the mid-term review. At the beginning of the review of each priority area, a summary of the recommendations of the mid-term review relating to that area is provided. In the conclusion (sect. III), some critical issues affecting the implementation of the New Agenda, are addressed. In view of the paramount importance given to the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the New Agenda, an addendum to this report (A/55/350/Add.1) is devoted to that issue.

II. Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s: review of progress

A. Economic reforms, including the effective mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources:

The mid-term review recommended that African countries should deepen ongoing economic reforms, encourage domestic savings and create an enabling environment to attract domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI). The international community should continue to provide support to these efforts, which are necessary for sustained and sustainable growth and development. African countries should continue to improve public expenditure patterns, focusing on priority public expenditure; and ensure that structural adjustment programmes do not compromise social development goals including, in particular, the eradication of poverty and generation of productive employment and social integration. African countries should also strengthen financial intermediation through promoting deposit mobilization activities.

5. Since the mid-term review, African countries have achieved progress in economic growth though it was tempered in the last two years (1998 and 1999) of the 1990s, as a result of the impact of the Asian financial crisis, the decline in the terms of trade, weather-related supply shocks and, more recently, the resurgence of armed conflicts in some African countries. According to "World economic situation and prospects 2000", issued by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, African economies grew by 3.0 per cent in 1999, recording a marginal improvement over the 2.8 per cent economic growth rate in 1998. According to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), several countries grew with the recorded gross domestic product (GDP) growth in excess of 5 per cent, with three countries (Botswana, Mozambique and Uganda) recording 7 per cent growth; and only three countries suffered economic recession in 1999 compared with six countries in the previous year. Economic growth in 1999 was essentially export-led. Favourable weather conditions, resulting in improved agricultural output, played an important role in the increase in economic growth. GDP growth in 2000 is expected to increase to 4.2 per cent, owing largely to an anticipated increase in the value of exports to 11.5 per cent in 2000.

6. In per capita terms, GDP growth increased only marginally in 1999 over 1998. Strong macroeconomic policies in a number of African countries contributed to macroeconomic stability. The last two years of the 1990s have also witnessed improvements in macroeconomic fundamentals. For example, inflation had fallen from 35 per cent in the early 1990s to 11 per cent in 1998, though it increased to 14 per cent in 1999.

7. Many African economies are exhibiting strong macroeconomic stability as a result of sound economic policies pursued during the past several years. There are increasing signs that far-reaching economic reforms and appropriate economic policies that have been implemented have contributed to improved economic efficiency, savings and investment and a better environment for private sector activity. The economic reforms pursued by African countries supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under its Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) include: opening up to foreign trade and investment; restructuring of public enterprises as well as privatizing them; removing domestic monopolies; and reforming the financial sector. There is also improvement in the allocation of public resources towards the social sector. For example, military spending had declined steadily in Africa from 3.4 per cent of GDP in 1990 to 2.1 per cent in 1998, though it increased marginally to 2.2 per cent of GDP in 1999 owing to an increase in the number of armed conflicts.

8. Policies were aimed at combating corruption, mismanagement and misappropriation of public resources. Economic reforms were further deepened with new Administrations in Nigeria and South Africa, emphasizing a strong and active role for the private sector: one of increasing employment in Nigeria and of

improving social services for the poor through private sector development and fiscal consolidation in South Africa.

9. In the context of PRGF, IMF encourages and assists African Governments in reaching the objectives of ensuring macroeconomic stability; achieving a market-based economic environment; and creating and maintaining a regulatory and institutional environment. In addition, it assists in enabling and better delineating the role of government with a focus on efficient provision of public services; and transparency and accountability in budget operations. Currently, PRGF arrangements are in place for 19 African countries. Under the new approach initiated in late 1999, the Government-owned Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) formulated in consultation with civil society will be the basis for the IMF/World Bank concessional financial assistance to low-income countries. It is also a coordination framework of assistance from other donors — multilateral and bilateral — for poverty reduction.

10. Notwithstanding some improvements, recent economic growth in Africa has been neither strong nor sustained enough to increase per capita income. The growth rate is not high enough to achieve substantial and lasting reduction in poverty levels and significant improvement in the overall social and economic status of the population. It has been estimated that 44 per cent of Africans in the continent as a whole and 51 per cent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa live in absolute poverty. According to the ECA Economic Report on Africa 1999, a GDP annual growth rate of between 7 and 8 per cent and an annual investment rate of 30-40 per cent of GDP would be required to halve poverty by 2015. With the current domestic savings rate of 18 per cent, to significantly reduce poverty on the continent, external resources would be required to fill this gap. Appropriate domestic strategies will need to be put in place to mobilize domestic resources through improved revenue collection; providing an enabling environment to attract private investment; and improved intermediation of savings for investment, as well as getting back flight capital.

B. Promotion of the private sector and foreign direct investment:

In order to promote private sector and attract foreign direct investment (FDI), the mid-term review recommended that African countries should deepen economic reforms and improve the physical, institutional and social infrastructure; pursue and implement specific measures to attract both domestic and foreign investment; encourage further privatization measures and engage in vigorous investment promotion campaigns; promote and strengthen private and public sector partnership; and promote and develop the informal sector and microenterprises by providing them with necessary skills, efficient technology and fostering linkages with the formal financial system.

11. Since the mid-term review and the last progress report considered by the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, many African countries have pursued economic reforms, including privatization programmes. IMF's policy advice and assistance in this regard has been geared towards trade liberalization. Currently, Africa's tariff rate at 20 per cent remains above the average in most other continents. A further lowering of tariffs will help deepen trade links and will provide access to cheaper imports and technology. This will inevitably foster Africa's competitiveness and thereby promote its integration into the world economy.

12. IMF and the World Bank have also provided assistance in deregulating the labour market to make it more flexible as well as in rationalizing and reforming investment codes to ensure a level playing field for all investors, both domestic and foreign. They have encouraged a prompt implementation of privatization and restructuring programmes for public enterprises while emphasizing that the selling process should be transparent, that opportunities should be afforded to potential small stakeholders and that appropriate

measures should be taken to attenuate any adverse social impact of denationalization programmes.

13. Several African countries have active privatization programmes for divesting commercial enterprises owned by Governments and divestiture of utility sector entities is also starting, especially in the telecommunication sector. The World Bank's Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) supported private investment by issuing 65 guarantees totalling $400 million to cover projects in 20 African countries as of 30 June 1999. This facilitated an estimated $3.7 billion in FDI. In addition, the World Bank and MIGA have created a specialized window within the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) net, the MIGA's Internet-based market place for investment opportunities, to launch Privatization Link, profiling investment opportunities arising from privatization.

14. There has been considerable dissemination of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) best practice information through an external network of the World Bank staff, development partners and African countries. Furthermore, in view of the importance of SMEs, as a stepping stone to private sector development, the World Bank Group has recently created an SME Department and sent an SME Policy to its Board for its consideration.

15. In their efforts to promote SMEs in Africa, ECA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria, organized in October 1999 a subregional forum on the theme of "Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Policy Framework and Linkages to source finance and market opportunities". The Forum agreed on measures to improve and strengthen performance of SMEs. The Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (OSCAL) of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat organized two regional expert group meetings on increasing productivity and competitiveness in the informal sector (held in the Gambia in December 1998); and promoting value-added activities in the informal sector (held in Kenya in December 1999). The objectives of the meetings were to analyse the constraints on undertaking more productive activities in the informal sector and recommend measures for effectively addressing these constraints.

16. UNDP's "Enterprise Africa", aimed at facilitating and supporting the development of SMEs in Africa, is operational in nine African countries. It provides technical assistance in developing and implementing new and strengthening existing national programmes; facilitating access to credit; promoting regional cooperation through the formation of enterprise-level networking; and providing Governments with policy advice on enterprise development.

17. The United Nations system organizations continue to assist African countries in identifying and putting in place policies that would attract investment. In March 1999 in Senegal, UNDP, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the African Development Bank, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), ECA and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), organized a forum on improving competitiveness in Africa.

18. In response to highlighting the opportunities for investment in Africa, ECA, in October 1999, organized the first African Development Forum under the theme "The challenge to Africa of globalization and the Information Age". Follow-up action for potential investment in the information and communication technology sectors in Africa is being pursued through the Alliance for African Business, an umbrella coalition of private sector organizations and interest groups from within and outside the continent.

19. UNIDO has launched a major initiative to develop 15 Integrated Programmes for Africa, focusing on SMEs, and for the most part agro-industries, through a wide range of local industry support institutions. It has also convened investment promotion conferences for Guinea, Uganda and the Southern African region in 1998 and 1999 to assist African countries in attracting private investment. As regards promoting and strengthening public/private partnerships, within the framework of the Alliance for African Industrialization (AAI), UNIDO organized in cooperation with ECA, OAU, the African Development Bank and the Government of Senegal an industrial conference on Partnership and Investment in Africa in Dakar, Senegal, in October 1999.

20. Water is a critical aspect of infrastructure in the industrialization process. With regard to improving the physical infrastructure to promote and attract private investment, including FDI, for industrial development, UNDP has provided technical support to the SADC Integrated Water Resource Management Programme through the development of the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) and Investment programme. UNDP's technical assistance programmes comprise support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Water Coordination Unit, including the development of national water project profiles, and support to the SADC Department of Water Affairs in the implementation of RSAP.

21. UNCTAD prepared a report in October 1999 analysing the weakness in the transport infrastructure and its effects on export programme and market development in Africa. The study concluded that the lack of investment in human and physical infrastructure was a major impediment. The study recognized the role of public finance as well as official development assistance (ODA) in infrastructure financing, including as a catalyst for attracting FDI.

22. The World Bank continues to play an active role in Africa's private sector development. For example, the Bank provided support for the Regional Trade Facilitation project and new public-private partnerships are emerging in Africa. The Bank plays a catalytic role in bringing together the appropriate mix of international advice and financial resources to support these activities and partnerships.

23. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has approved a $36 million financial package for a private power plant in Senegal. For the first time, the International Development Association (IDA) has provided a partial risk guarantee of $30 million for the Côte d'Ivoire Azito project. In the transportation sector, a private company now operates the Abidjan-Ouagadougou rail line. The World Bank's new tools such as Fixed-Spread Loans for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) countries and the Cross-Border Initiative facilitating investment across countries in Southern Africa are encouraging indications of private investment. The World Bank is involved in 26 projects with $2.8 billion for the provision of energy. There are currently 13 such projects in 10 African countries with a Bank commitment of $1 billion.

24. The Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development and Pipeline project, endorsed by the World Bank, in June 2000 at the cost of $3.7 billion is another illustration of the increasing role of the private sector in African development. The project is aimed at transforming the economies of the two countries through the development of petroleum resources and effective management of the public revenue arising from it for poverty eradication.

25. Financial and institutional infrastructure has improved in Africa. More than 30 financial sector initiatives are under way with more than $400 million of World Bank support. The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa are developing common payment systems and improved banking supervision. IFC has increased its investments in Africa to $1.3 billion in fiscal year 1999 and helped to set up stock exchanges, private merchant banks and venture capital companies, leasing companies and investment funds.

26. A UNDP initiative, Africa 99, was established to stimulate business and investment partnerships between United States and African enterprises. The first event held in April 1999 in the series brought together business and political leaders from the United States of America and their counterparts from eight African countries and culminated in a number of business deals between United States and African entrepreneurs. This was followed by the Corporate Council on Africa Heads of State Summit on the theme "Attracting capital to Africa", also held in April 1999 in Houston, Texas, United States. In November 1999, a business exposition and trade and investment conference was held in Arizona, United States, which helped to force a strategic partnership between the Sahel region of Africa and the United States-Africa Growth and Opportunity Act.

27. In order to attract investment, African Governments need to make greater efforts to create the conditions for investors — domestic and foreign — that will generate confidence in their respective economies so that investors feel that their savings and assets are secured and protected. Non-adherence to the rule of law not only will discourage the inflow of foreign capital, but can also lead to capital flight. Capital flight remains pervasive and the stock is estimated at about the size of Africa's external debt

stock at the end of 1990s, that is to say, about $350 billion.

28. Because of its perceived riskiness, Africa has been largely marginalized from the international capital markets. For example, in 1999 Africa attracted only $8.6 billion (in FDI portfolio) of the total of $192 billion to developing countries, or only 4.5 per cent. The challenge for African countries is to engender confidence in their economies through ensuring greater transparency, accountability and the rule of law. In this regard, African countries need to strengthen key institutions such as the civil service and the judiciary, so as to establish the requisite environment for attracting private resources critical for African development.

C. Intensification of the democratization process and the strengthening of civil society:

The mid-term review recommended that African countries should pay attention to ensuring accountability, transparency and the rule of law in their efforts to improve governance, broaden popular participation through increasing the involvement of civil society, and implement effectively and fully the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation. In addition, the review recommended that non-governmental organizations should be enabled to be fully involved in the implementation of the New Agenda. Furthermore, the important role of women in development and in the decision-making process should be strengthened, and lasting solution to conflicts and civil strife must be found and the root causes of conflict addressed. The international community should continue to support subregional and regional initiatives for conflict resolution.

29. In accordance with the above recommendation, a number of activities have been undertaken by United Nations system, donor organizations and other development partners. With regard to the recommendation dealing with improving governance in Africa, UNDP and ECA have concentrated their efforts on promoting the Africa Governance Forum (AGF) process. This is aimed at facilitating a consensus-building dialogue between Governments and civil society organizations, capacity enhancement, more effective in-country coordination and greater mobilization of resources for governance programmes, and ultimately at reinforcing the efforts and the capacity of the African countries to promote good governance. Since the launching of the Forum in 1997, there have been three annual meetings organized by UNDP and covering a wide spectrum of issues ranging from constitutional reform and decentralization to accountability and transparency.

30. AGF II, held in Accra, Ghana, in June 1998 and supported by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland, as well as the European Union (EU), focused on the themes of accountability and transparency. AGF III, which was held in Bamako, Mali, in June 1999 focused on good governance and conflict management. It was supported by the Governments of Japan, Norway and Switzerland. The Forum considered the development of conflict indicators and applicable models and how they can benefit policy-making in a proactive manner. AGF-IV, took place in Kampala, Uganda, in September 2000, and focused on parliamentary processes and their role in consolidating good governance in Africa.

31. As a follow-up of the First Africa Governance Forum, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and UNDP have supported the Africa Governance Inventory (AGI) project. The project covering 36 countries in sub-Saharan Africa aims to compile comprehensive databases and analyses of governance activities for better coordination and resource mobilization. This is intended to eventually enhance the capacity of each country to lead the process to ensure its sustainability. In addition, UNDP is establishing benchmarks to measure progress in such areas as improved national capacity, coordination and resource mobilization.

32. In line with enhancing greater coordination and synergy with other organizations, ECA and UNDP are collaborating with the World Bank, the Global

Coalition for Africa, OAU, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and others in assisting with governance programmes in Africa. UNDP has identified civil service reform and capacity-building assessments as two areas of collaboration with the World Bank and has also coordinated with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) a participatory development and good governance exercise in Mauritania.

33. UNDP has also provided assistance for activities on governance to four countries including technical and financial assistance for elections, training programmes to improve the judiciary and government bodies, and financial assistance for the promotion of good governance and democracy. UNDP in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria has formulated a comprehensive Governance Programme for Nigeria, which has been submitted to donors for funding. A joint UNDP/IMF Programme on Financial and Economic Management has been set up in Nigeria to build and strengthen government capacity.

34. ECA launched a project on monitoring progress towards good governance. The objective of the project is to help create an environment for increasing investment and economic growth by informing policies and practices that improve governance. In September of 1999, with the support of the Ford Foundation, a workshop was organized on measuring and monitoring progress in good governance, including the challenges of civil service reform in Africa and how to improve transparency and accountability in the public sector. In March 2000, a follow-up workshop was convened by ECA to streamline quantitative and qualitative indicators and to define the operational modality for the preparation of an ECA pilot study on governance in Africa. Bilateral donors including Australia, France, Norway, Japan and the European Commission, continue to support several governance-related projects in Africa.

35. In the area of improving public governance, ECA is providing technical advisory services to African countries for strengthening their public service commissions; the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is also supporting training for mid-career local and regional planners to enhance their knowledge and skills in formulating and implementing local/regional development policies and plans. A number of African countries are receiving support aimed at strengthening various economic institutions and upgrading skills for strategic planning and defining good macroeconomic policies.

36. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has initiated projects in Ghana, Guinea, and Senegal in which rural decentralization is used as a tool for strengthening local capacity and promoting partnerships in the decision-making process. The World Bank is assisting African countries in building capacity for decentralization. IMF provides technical assistance to African countries in strengthening the judicial framework for improving governance in the areas of economic management, auditing, and codes of conduct in the fiscal, monetary and financial domains, including where relevant, support and advice on the civil service reform. The World Bank Institute has undertaken in concert with African Governments, civil society, the private sector, donors and others the development of accountability programmes, governance and corruption surveys, and several elements of governance and public sector reform, including the strengthening of parliaments and the investigative media. It has also conducted a core course on corruption, during which seven African countries developed anti-corruption strategies and action plans.

37. In 1999, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat published a directory of African non-governmental organizations actively involved in the areas of agriculture, women and youth, health and poverty eradication. The directory provides a comprehensive overview of the activities of African Civil society in African development. In recognition of the important role of African civil society in African development, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries also organized a seminar on strengthening the capacity, efficiency and financial basis of African non-governmental organizations on the eve of the NGO Millennium Forum held in May 2000 in New York. The objective of the seminar was to bring African non-governmental organizations up to date on global trends and current development issues and to give them the opportunity to exchange experiences and to assert themselves and make their voices heard during the Forum.

38. DPA provides support and technical assistance to electoral commissions. In 1999, it provided assistance

to, among others, Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, the Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has provided assistance to African countries in strengthening administrative capacities, especially to ministries of labour, in creating transparent procedures and practices with regard to developing relevant labour-market data.

39. In response to the Secretary-General's call of the search for appropriate ways and means of realizing transparency measures and adopting military budgets that are commensurate with development concerns in Africa, UNDP launched the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development. With a total budget of about $5.3 million for the period 1999-2003, the programme will work in partnership with Governments, OAU, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), non-governmental organizations, and weapons suppliers in order to address the security and development problems associated with the growing proliferation of light weapons and small arms.

40. As regards actions taken in securing respect for human rights and the rule of law, the majority of African countries have ratified the major international human rights instruments. As of 30 April 2000, 42 African countries had ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex); 40 had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex); 54 had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex); only 28 African countries had ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Assembly resolution 39/46, annex); 26 countries had ratified the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Assembly resolution 260 A (III)). Since 1998, 32 African countries have signed the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights[2] on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

41. A number of United Nations organizations have provided support to African countries for elaborating human rights action plans (UNDP/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)), and drafting national legislation and technical advisory services (International Labour Organization (ILO), UNESCO and UNHCR), and have taken initiatives with focus on women and children (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)).

42. During the period under review, there have been further improvements in overall governance in Africa, marked by the unfolding of democratic regimes. The OAU Council of Ministers at its seventieth ordinary session, held in Algiers from 8 to 10 July 1999 adopted a decision on unconstitutional changes in Africa (A/54/424, annex I, decision CM/Dec.483 (LXX)), condemned all anti-democratic forms of accession to power and reaffirmed the supreme and inalienable right of African people to fully participate in the process of governance through their democratically elected representatives. The transition to democracy in Nigeria and a smooth election process in South Africa and Senegal provide room for optimism.

43. However, these success cases are in contrast with instability of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, fragility of democracy in many instances, and resurgence of armed conflict in a number of African countries over the last two to three years. By mid-1999, 17 African countries, including those involved in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were affected by major as well as low-intensity conflicts, resulting in even larger numbers of refugees and displaced persons.

44. Given that establishing a culture of transparency and accountability in public affairs, based on democracy, liberty and political freedom, requires strong enforcement measures as well as commitment, African countries will continue to require for some time international support in consolidating their efforts to this end. African Governments will need to be supported in creating and strengthening institutions that uphold transparency, accountability, good governance and the rule of law.

D. Solution to Africa's debt problem:

The mid-term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s recommended that the international community continue to cooperate in addressing the unsustainable debt burden of heavily indebted African

countries, in particular those of the least developed countries. In this regard, it recommended that creditor countries, private banks and multilateral financial institutions be encouraged to consider continuing the initiative and efforts to address commercial debt of heavily indebted African countries. In addition, appropriate measures will need to be taken by bilateral creditors and the multilateral financial institutions to find durable solutions to the unsustainable debt problems of African countries, and African least developed countries in particular.

45. Africa's external debt overhang intensifies despite various debt-relief measures including the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative launched by the World Bank/IMF in 1996. Africa's debt increased from $344 billion in 1997 to $359 billion in 1999. This is clearly unsustainable as Africa's total debt stock as a percentage of GDP was 66.4 per cent in 1997 and 65.7 per cent in 1998, and slightly declined to 65.2 per cent in 1999, while debt service as percentage of export of goods and services increased from 21.3 per cent in 1997 to 28.7 per cent in 1998 and to 30 per cent in 1999. According to almost all measures, the debt burden of African countries has been worsening.

46. The implications of the huge debt-service payment for Africa, especially the HIPCs, are far-reaching, as debt servicing drains away fiscal resources for development. At the same time, many countries have remained trapped in a debt cycle whereby new lending/aid is given to service existing debt stock.

47. The HIPC Initiative was revised in light of its inadequacies and the "enhanced" HIPC Initiative was announced in September 1999 as an improvement over the original one in two basic ways: (a) it provides deeper, broader and faster debt relief to HIPCs by revising downward the debt indicator ratios, and by shortening the interim period between the decision point and the completion point; and (b) it closely links debt relief to poverty reduction programmes, through the requirement that each HIPC country prepare and implement a PRSP in a consultative process.

48. Debt relief totalling $16 billion has in nominal terms (US$ 9 billion in net present value (NPV) terms) been approved for 10 countries (Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Honduras, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania). Decision points for a group of about 10 more countries are expected to be reached before end-2000 (Cameroon, Chad, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Malawi, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Zambia) for a total debt relief of approximately similar amounts.

49. It is estimated that the cost of the enhanced HIPC Initiative will be about $28 billion in NPV 1999 terms, of which half is borne by bilateral and commercial creditors and the other half by multinational creditors. While some progress has been made, the financing of the Initiative has not been fully secured yet and intense efforts need to be made to mobilize additional resources.

50. The Secretary-General's 1998 report to the Security Council and the General Assembly on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318) recommended, inter alia, that creditor countries convert into grants all the remaining bilateral debts of poorest African countries. The report also recommended that international financial institutions ease and quicken access to facilities and provide heavily indebted poor countries in Africa with sufficient resources. For its part, the ECA Joint Conference of Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Planning held in May 1999 adopted a statement urging individual countries to take the lead in agreeing to complete debt cancellation arising from bilateral assistance for the poorest African countries and reduction of all other bilateral debts to the poorest countries by 90 per cent.

51. As part of the enhanced HIPC framework, IMF has transformed the concessional lending facility, the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF), into the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF). The main instrument of this facility is a country-owned poverty reduction strategy set out in a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), which aims to integrate the poverty reduction measures into a sustainable and coherent macroeconomic framework,

for coordinating technical and financial assistance from external donors for the recipient country's poverty reduction strategy. The World Health Organization (WHO) has assisted in the preparation of PRSPs focusing on health strategies with an emphasis on poverty reduction. Countries benefiting from its assistance in the preparation of this strategy include Mozambique, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

52. The issue of debt relief was discussed at the meeting of the Group of Eight (G-8) in Okinawa, Japan, in July 2000. While the Group of Seven (G-7) countries reaffirmed their commitment to speed the implementation of debt relief of HIPCs, they insisted that these countries should undertake policies to meet the conditions for justifying debt relief.

53. Notwithstanding a variety of debt-relief measures, including the enhanced HIPC Initiative, Africa's debt problem remains unresolved. The debt crisis is a serious development challenge facing African countries. Recognizing that even the enhanced HIPC Initiative does not provide an adequate and sustainable solution for African debt crisis, African countries at the 1999 OAU/African Economic Community (AEC) Summit held in Algiers, requested the support of the international community for a total cancellation of Africa's external debt. The OAU/AEC Contact Group on Africa's External Debt Crisis met in January 2000 with a view to implementing the decision contained in the Sirte Declaration (A/54/621, annex), which had mandated the Presidents of Algeria and South Africa to pursue the matter with the countries of the G-8.

54. The 2000 OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Lomé, Togo, mandated the Presidents of Algeria, Nigeria and South Africa to represent the continent in talks with the G-8. It was the first time that this kind of delegation of leaders from developing countries met with the G-8 leaders. It was felt that the meeting was a starting point for an in-depth discussion between the leaders of the G-8 and developing countries on principles centring around debt relief, economic development and trade.

E. Trade facilitation and market access:

The mid- term review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s recommended that the situation of Africa's external trade be further improved by the efforts of African countries in terms of developing the appropriate physical, institutional and organizational capacities and capabilities. Such efforts as regards trade facilitation and improved market access should be supported by the international community. It also recommended that Africa's trading partners consider further tariff reductions and removal of non-tariff barriers for African products. More effective utilization of generalized system of preferences (GSP) schemes for African countries, particularly by least developed countries, is encouraged.

55. African countries have made a great deal of efforts over the last several years to implement trade policy reforms. However, in spite of their efforts, Africa's share of the global market has remained low, accounting for less than 2 per cent. The recent published data by UNCTAD (*Trade and Development Report 1999*[3]) show that the volume of exports of African countries increased significantly in 1996 and 1997 but declined by 1.3 per cent in 1998. The value of export earnings in Africa in 1998 fell sharply by 16 per cent against an increase of 2 per cent in the previous year. The volume of imports remained more or less the same (with a marginal increase of 0.6 per cent) in 1998 compared with 1997. For the region as a whole, the loss in the terms of trade represented 2.6 per cent in real income.

56. According to UNCTAD, of 48 sub-Saharan African countries, 39 are dependent on only two primary commodities, agricultural and mineral, for more than 50 per cent of their export earnings. At the same time, the share of primary commodities in total world trade is declining. Only one African country had

a merchandise export structure that was dominated by manufactured products in the form of garments. As a result, the bulk of merchandise exports in Africa have little value added in terms of the processing/manufacturing context. This demonstrates the need for vigorous efforts at export diversification in African countries and African least developed countries. The organizations of the United Nations system and the donor community have taken the steps to assist African countries in improving their diversification efforts (see sect. F below).

57. Similarly, the United Nations system organizations have provided assistance to African countries in promoting trade. For example, UNCTAD, in conjunction with the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre (ITC), have provided assistance to eight African countries through the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for selected least developed and African countries (JITA). This programme aims at building national capacity to enhance the understanding and implications of the World Trade Organization agreements, including for trade negotiations; adopting the policy and regulatory framework to the World Trade Organization agreements; and enhancing the countries' capacities to take advantage of the World Trade Organization agreements through improved market access.

58. The JITA programme's common Trust Fund for beneficiary countries launched in March 1998 received total pledges to the Fund amounting to $8.2 million out of an estimated requirement of $10.3 million. The eight beneficiary countries of the Fund are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Tunisia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

59. The Integrated Framework (IF) for Trade-Related Technical Assistance of the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD, ITC, UNDP, the World Bank and IMF continues to support 33 African least developed countries in their trade and trade-related capacity-building. The six agencies involved have prepared individual responses in light of need assessment. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and UNIDO had indicated their interest in participating more actively in this framework. Under that programme, two joint field missions were undertaken in the eight sub-Saharan African countries during which country implementation plans were adopted in conjunction with the national steering committees. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is advising African countries on issues related to the impact of telecom tariff reductions in the light of the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services.[4]

60. Major activities carried out under the IF programme also include consultations between the World Trade Organization and the customs administration on the implementation of the customs valuation agreement and other customs-related matters. Of special note is the launching by UNCTAD of seven country-specific studies on the impact of the multilateral trading system aimed at assisting Governments in better understanding the overall impact of the system on their respective countries and thus facilitating the adoption of national policies to bring them in line with World Trade Organization agreements.

61. At a meeting convened by the Secretary-General in October 1998, the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development stressed the need to address the high tariff and tariff escalations that continue to exist in certain sectors of interest to African countries, for example, agricultural products, textile and clothing and leather goods. The Panel also emphasized the importance of building supply capacity to take advantage of new and existing market opportunities and making Africa more competitive by, inter alia, improving the quality of exports, upgrading infrastructure, especially transportation, and increasing marketing and packaging skills.

62. In recognition of the trade and investment opportunities available in African countries, some donor countries are responding positively. The Government of Norway has established the Norwegian Risk Fund for Developing Countries to promote participation in the establishment of sustainable and profitable business in developing countries. In 1998, the first year of operation, 47 per cent of the 400 million Norwegian kroner allocated to the Fund was used to support investment in African countries.

63. The United States-Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which was recently passed by the United States Congress and signed into law, seeks to promote commerce/trade with Africa by lowering/eliminating tariff and quotas on products, specifically on imports of textiles and apparel for African countries that are pursuing economic and

political reforms. It also calls for the creation of a United States-Africa economic forum to discuss economic matters of mutual concern and a United States-sub-Saharan Africa free trade agreement by 2020.

64. The implementation of duty-free and quota-free treatment for least developed countries has been advanced by the offers made recently in the World Trade Organization's General Council for 13 developed-country markets, including the European Community as one of them. This is an important step that the World Trade Organization intends to take further.

65. In June 1999, an inter-agency agreement was signed by UNDP and UNCTAD to develop a programme designed to support sub-Saharan African countries in developing human resources, enabling institutions and enhancing negotiating capacity to assist them in entering on an effective export-led, high-growth path and enhancing their integration into the regional economy and the multilateral trading system. In pursuance of this development objective, the "fast track" module aims to provide to African government negotiators and other stakeholders in the private sector and civil society with critical and timely assistance in formulating strategic and proactive trade policies and attendant negotiation objectives.

66. Support was also provided to African countries on multilateral trade negotiations, particularly in their preparations for the Third World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Seattle, Washington, and for the negotiation regarding the successor arrangement to the Lomé IV Convention.[5] In this regard, a workshop organized, in collaboration with UNDP and OAU involving 30 African countries, was held in Pretoria, South Africa, in June 1999. Among the themes addressed were prospects for the extension of new preferences for sub-Saharan African countries, a positive agenda for subsidies and for the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[4] and challenges for the post-Lomé trade framework for African countries.

67. However, increased traditional and non-traditional exports are contingent upon increased market access. While the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations resulted in improvements in market access for both goods and services, developing countries, in particular in Africa, have not been able to benefit from the expected gains and opportunities arising from the rule-based trading system. Many of those countries are experiencing difficulties in implementing agreements, and supply constraints continue to hamper their effective participation in the international trading system

68. Tariff peaks and tariff escalation, and agricultural support policies severely impede the development of the export-oriented growth of many African countries. Most favoured duties that are applied to textiles, clothing and footwear in some developed countries' markets continue to be high and quotas continue to apply. Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures are too rigid and inflexible and African countries find it difficult to meet the required standards. In addition, agricultural safeguards in many developed countries that restrict African exports still exist.

69. While there are opportunities in new market openings, African countries are faced with stricter rules on what can be traded. For these and other reasons, African countries remain marginal players in world trade and investment. In this regard, a major goal will be to place Africa in a position to select the best trade liberalization options that will enhance the integration objective of the African Economic Community (AEC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and to build and strengthen Africa's production capacity.

70. On the other hand, the rapidly changing global environment offers African countries an opportunity to expand exports as an essential mechanism in increasing resources for financing development. However, much remains to be done to improve the competitiveness of African products as well as their access to international market. The ECA Joint Conference of Ministers of Finance and Ministers Responsible for Economic and Social Development and Planning, held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 8 May 1999, called for the establishment of a special international fund to permit the restructuring of enterprises to enhance value added and competitiveness in order to cope with the challenges of globalization.

F. Diversification of African economies:

The mid-term review recommended that the international community should continue to support commodity diversification efforts in Africa. In this regard, States participating in the African Development Fund within the African Development Bank are invited to pay particular attention to the diversification of African economies. It also stressed that the Common Fund for Commodities should give due regard to facilitating commodity development and diversification measures in Africa. The mid-term review further requested the United Nations system as well as OAU and all other partners in Africa's development process to continue to play an active and more effective role in the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

71. The response to the mid-term recommendations regarding the diversification of African economies has been rather disappointing. The United Nations activities in the diversification of Africa's economies have not been as focused and coherent as they could be. Recent developments suggest, however, that there is scope for progress in this area.

72. In order to reinforce the United Nations activities in the area of economic diversification, CPC, at its thirty-eighth session in 1998, requested that a programme on the priority theme "Diversification of African economies" be elaborated and incorporated into the Special Initiative. As a first step, an initial outline of a programme was prepared by UNCTAD, the lead agency on diversification for the Special Initiative, and attached to the progress report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/1999/6) on the implementation of the Special Initiative prepared for the thirty-ninth session of CPC.

73. Since then, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in close collaboration with UNCTAD, organized an Ad Hoc Expert Group Meeting on "Diversification of African Economies in the New Global Context" in November 1999. The objectives of the meeting were to evaluate progress made in implementing the recommendations of the General Assembly on diversification; to re-examine the prospects for diversification in the new global context; and to outline a more comprehensive and practical operational framework for sustainable diversification of African economies. The Expert Group Meeting agreed that the new global context provided significant opportunities for competitive enterprises. However, it noted that World Trade Organization rules on trade as well as the increasing concentration of big firms in the world market mean that those countries/firms that do not adopt modern business practices will not do well

74. The meeting considered a draft operational framework prepared by UNCTAD which was subsequently revised based on comments and suggestions by the experts. The framework is envisioned as serving two functions: (a) to suggest a unifying approach for the activities of the United Nations system and other international agencies in the area of diversification so that their effectiveness is enhanced, and (b) to outline a strategy and a series of actions that can be undertaken by African countries to diversify their economies. The framework was presented to the Second Annual Regional Consultations of United Nations System Agencies Working in Africa held in Addis Ababa in June, 2000. Organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, have indicated their interest and a meeting by UNCTAD is planned to further discuss a system-wide division of labour on activities in this area.

75. Enhancing market access is one way of encouraging diversification of commodities. The agreement at the tenth session of UNCTAD on quota-free and tariff-free access of essentially all exports of least developed countries should be helpful to the African least developed countries if adopted by the World Trade Organization. As Africa is a marginal player in world trade negotiations, UNCTAD's efforts to provide technical assistance in this area have proved useful. In May 1999, UNCTAD organized an African regional symposium, which was hosted by the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, on further liberalization of agricultural trade and diversification of the

commodity sector. The symposium brought together farmers, traders and government officials who identified issues of special interest to commodity-dependent African countries which formed the basis of a common position for World Trade Organization negotiations on agricultural trade.

76. The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) has been actively involved in exposing African policy makers to its operations and in identifying regional needs in commodity countries. To that effect, a workshop was held in the United Republic of Tanzania in December 1998, which also served to furnish information on the research and development activities of CFC on commodities such as bananas, groundnuts, olive oil, coconut oil and palm oil. A major Round-Table Meeting was organized by CFC, in collaboration with the Government of Egypt, in November 1999. The Round Table addressed the prospects of production, processing and trade of the main agricultural and mineral commodities of importance to Africa in general and Northern and Central African countries in particular. Given that the Governing Council of CFC decided, at its ninth annual meeting in Amsterdam in December 1997, to establish a project preparation facility for Africa and the least developed countries, good prospects exist for the funding of specific diversification activities recommended by the meeting.

77. While the diversification of African economies has been at the top of the international agenda since the late 1980s, little has occurred in terms of concrete action taken by Africa's development partners to implement the resolution of the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Secretary-General as contained in the mid-term review. To varying degrees, recent initiatives such as the Tokyo Agenda for Action (A/53/559-S/1998/1015, annex), and the Swedish Partnership with Africa, acknowledge the need for the diversification of African economies, particularly their productive base. In order to reduce dependence on primary commodities and tap into the global economy, it is critical for African countries to add value to primary products by industrial processing. The production and export of such value-added commodities as foodstuffs, wood and furniture, ferro-alloys, platinum and aluminium are important for boosting output, employment and export earnings. However, structural and institutional weaknesses, both domestic and external, have constrained the continent's industrialization process.

G. Agricultural production, rural development and food security:

To increase agriculture production and food security, the mid-term review recommended that measures need to be taken to implement policies that enhance agricultural productivity to increase food production and income; diversify agricultural output, promote agro-based industries and ensure food security through supporting and promoting agricultural practices that use sound ecological practices, including traditional methods; facilitate improved storage, distribution and marketing of food; and increase access to new technologies and to training to acquire agricultural skills, particularly among women, as well as manage food aid without undermining local food production.

78. In implementing the above recommendations, FAO developed and implemented a range of activities within its Special Programme for Food Security (SPFS), launched in 1994. The implementation of SPFS follows a multidisciplinary approach based on two phases: phase I and phase II. Phase I includes four components: water control (including small-scale irrigation), intensification of crop production systems (including soil improvement), diversification of production systems (into short-cycle livestock, artisanal fisheries, and agroforestry) and analysis and resolution of constraints on food security. The Programme gives priority to the needs of small farmers, including women farmers, and is based on a broad-based partnership, including African government, donor countries and multilateral financial institutions, civil society and other stakeholders. By September 2000, phase I of the programme was operational in 36 countries in Africa, while it is being formulated in 5 additional countries in Africa. Phase II focuses on three major dimensions: a programme for food security and agricultural policy reform, an agricultural investment programme and the preparation of feasibility studies of bankable

projects. An important part of the programme continues to be the emphasis on South-South cooperation. As of September 2000, a total of 17 South-South cooperation agreements had been signed, of which 16 involve recipient countries in Africa. An additional 14 programmes have been formulated, of which 7 involve countries in Africa.

79. The implementation of this priority area has been greatly enhanced by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Network on Rural Development and Food Security. The network, set up by ACC in 1997 as a follow-up mechanism to the World Food Summit, has proved effective in mobilizing support for government efforts to implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action[6] and rural development and food security programmes; reinforcing ties between United Nations system organizations and other stakeholders; and fostering exchange of experiences and best practices. As of March 2000, the network comprises at the international level 21 United Nations system organizations and associated international and regional non-governmental organizations. At the country level, 32 national thematic groups working on rural development and food security have been established within the United Nations Resident Coordinator system in Africa. The thematic groups serve as an effective mechanism for facilitating synergy in the development of the four priority areas. FAO supports the development of various kinds of food security information systems, including improvement of agricultural statistics, crop forecasting and early warning to serve a variety of policy, programme and emergency relief needs. FAO also provides the secretariat of the inter-agency initiative to develop integrated national and global food insecurity information system development and provides direct support to 20 national systems.

80. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized a regional workshop on "Coping with Drought in sub-Saharan Africa: Better Use of Climate Information", which was held in Zimbabwe in October 1999. The workshop aimed at using drought information to support farmer-level decision-making and addressing the basic water resources assessment requirements to deal with sustainable water resources management issues.

81. As regards water for food production, FAO has undertaken activities relating to the following: (a) assistance in developing water sector and river basin management policy, including the Nile River Basin management policy; (b) water development and irrigation expansion, including a water control component, which was implemented in 14 African countries; (c) creation of irrigation equipment databases and in this regard, effect, two workshops were held on low-cost irrigation and irrigation equipment transfer; (d) regional water resources assessment and river basin planning; and (e) water harvesting, including assessment of water-harvesting techniques, and identification and technical review of water management development and conservation. These activities relate to the mid-term review's recommendation of enhancing agricultural productivity, increasing food production, boosting export earnings and developing rural economies in order to increase income.

82. In the area of soil quality improvement and land degradation and desertification control, activities are focusing on soil fertility and integrated plant nutrient management, improved land productivity through soil and water conservation, moisture conservation in rain-fed agriculture and technologies for assessment and management of problem soils. In this respect, FAO organized a number of seminars and expert consultations in order to raise awareness among Governments. It also organized regional workshops on erosion-induced loss in soil productivity, and on a land resources information system for food security in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.

83. FAO activities were aimed at the priority area of food security with special emphasis on women, concentrating on training and empowerment of women. They addressed women's limited access to improved labour, technologies, credit and marketing systems and the integration of women's concerns into the mainstream of agricultural development programmes. FAO designed a regional project on increasing rural women's food productivity through improved agricultural technology transfer and adoption in Africa, involving relevant United Nations agencies and selected countries in the region. The project, expected to be operational some time in 2000, is aimed at increasing agricultural productivity of women farmers through the identification, dissemination and institutionalization of agricultural technology transfer.

84. FAO provided assistance to a number of African countries in strengthening the capacity of their national

agricultural research systems (NARS), including the development of research master plans, development of capacity for formulating and implementing policies and strategies for research, technology development assessment and transfer. FAO has also developed better methods for the identification of food-insecure and poor persons and the assessment of factors that are preventing them from improving their condition.

85. The World Food Programme (WFP) has invested approximately $41.3 million in 1998 and $46.5 million in 1999 (or approximately 50 per cent of its operational expenditure) to support the development of agriculture and the enhancement of food security and rural infrastructure in Africa through the food-for-work or food-for-training activities. In addition, WFP's protracted relief and recovery operations include rehabilitation components, and community-based assets such as roads, and small-scale irrigation structures. Storage facilities also contribute to improve livelihoods of the WFP target group, the poor and food-insecure. In 1999, 3.7 million people directly benefited from WFP-supported development activities.

86. WFP works closely with its counterparts in African countries to improve early warning and response mechanisms to mitigate the effects of natural disasters. It has established vulnerability analysis and mapping units in regional and country offices in Africa that assist in identifying the vulnerable and food-insecure population, including analysis of the causes of their vulnerability. The units play an important role in directing WFP activities and targeting food assistance to the most vulnerable and food-insecure beneficiaries. Food aid from WFP benefited some 19.8 million people in sub-Saharan Africa in 1999, the majority of whom were victims of emergencies including conflict.

87. ECA under its sub-programme "Ensuring food security and sustainable development" collaborated with other development partners in organizing a number of seminars, workshops and meetings aimed at sensitizing African policy makers on the need to address the interlinked areas of population, agriculture and the environment so as to attain food security and sustainable development. ECAs activities in this area contributed to enhancing awareness and greater discussion of the holistic and comprehensive treatment of these interrelated issues and concerns in development planning.

88. Notwithstanding, the efforts, growth in agriculture and food production in Africa remains inadequate in relation to the potentials of this sector and the food needs of the many African countries. Similarly, diversification in agricultural production has not moved at the required pace to enable African countries to boost their exports in non-traditional products. One of the main reasons for the poor performance of the agriculture sector in Africa is the absence of a green revolution, including a focus on research on high-yielding varieties and the development of drought-resistant, as well as low-risk and low-cost technologies that do not require many external inputs. Weak research capacity, low investments in infrastructure and the limited access of farmers, especially subsistence farmers, to development institutions that provide credit, inputs, extension services, marketing and related information services continue to adversely affect agricultural productivity in many African countries. The development of these institutions, in combination with land reforms in some African countries, is a critical step towards raising agricultural productivity and increase food security.

H. Environment and development:

To promote and achieve sustainable development and to minimize the environmental degradation in Africa, the mid-term review concluded that urgent measures to address the problem of poverty, as one of the leading causes of environmental, degradation, should be taken; strategies and measures to implement the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa of 1991 should be put in place and measures for the effective implementation of all initiatives emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and related issues should be adopted. It also called for an early

ratification of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/49/84/Add.2; annex, appendix II), by all countries to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification. Furthermore, substantial resources should be mobilized to support the implementation of various initiatives emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the Convention to Combat Desertification, as well as measures for the effective implementation of national and regional action programmes in accordance with the programmes of the Convention to Combat Desertification.

89. In its efforts to implement these recommendations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) substantially supported the reorientation of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) to transform it into a regional cooperation mechanism. The eighth session of AMCEN held in April 2000 adopted the Abuja Declaration, embodying the agreement on the policy and institutional changes required to significantly enhance the role of AMCEN and make it an effective instrument for dealing with the continent's environmental concerns. The eighth session of AMCEN requested UNEP to establish an African Forum on Forests to forge collaborative regional partnership. The main responsibility of this will be to ensure an effective response to the global agenda on forests within the context of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF).

90. UNEP through AMCEN has been playing a critical role in enhancing Africa's negotiation capacity through support to Africa's preparatory meetings for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[7] to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[8] and to the Convention to Combat Desertification. In 1999, a special session of AMCEN was held at the African Regional Preparatory Conference for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification. Support was provided to 43 African countries in the implementation of their country programmes under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer through the ozone-depleting substances (ODS) officers network.

91. UNEP was also involved in a number of joint activities, including review of environmental situation and trends, early warning and environmental security. Through the UNEP/UNIDO Cleaner Production Programme, support has been given to African countries in the promotion of cleaner and safer industrial activities. UNEP embarked in 1998 on a comprehensive revitalization process of the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Areas of the Eastern African Region/Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region on the coastal and marine environment. UNEP continued its assistance to African countries in enhancing their national environmental legislation and since May 1999, seven workshops have been held with a total of more than 200 participants from government and non-governmental organizations, including the private sector.

92. UNEP Global Environmental Facility (GEF) coordination office has leveraged funds for projects in several African countries in the areas of the Facility. UNEP has also extended support to African journalists to facilitate accurate environmental reporting. It has organized a number of activities in Africa in the promotion of environment issues, for example a regional consultative meeting on disaster reduction and management in Africa, held in May 1999. With subregional organizations (ECOWAS and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU)), UNEP organized in 1999 workshops on energy and forests in West Africa (ECOWAS) and on the promotion of activities related to coastal zones management (in the context of AMU).

93. UNESCO has collaborated with a number of African countries through its "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) programme committees to prepare a project on the conservation and sustainable development of biodiversity in arid and semi-arid areas of Africa based on existing biosphere reserves. The project, whose preliminary phase should last for one year and full

implementation for three years, was submitted at the end of 1997 to the World Environment Fund for funding.

94. Recognizing that industry is the affirmed major polluter of the environment, UNIDO offers six different environmental management services: environmental policy, the Climate Convention and Kyoto Protocol thereto,[9] energy efficiency and rural energy development, cleaner production, pollution control and waste management and the Montreal Protocol. The first UNIDO-executed and GEF-financed programme on water pollution control and biodiversity water conservation in the Gulf of Guinea was completed in 1999. The project covered Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo and made significant efforts at improving the awareness of major stakeholders.

95. In 1999, UNIDO activities focused on providing support to the intergovernmental United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process. UNIDO completed the first phase of a regional programme for African industry which includes six countries: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Africa as the second largest consumer of methyl bromide continued to receive particular attention in UNIDO activities. In 1999, demonstration projects on ozone-friendly alternatives to methyl bromide were implemented in Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Altogether, the Africa region has 41 ongoing projects dealing with the phasing out of aerosols, refrigerants, foams and solvents.

I. Human dimension

1. Education:

The mid-term review recommended that African countries should endeavour to increase resource allocation in expanding access to basic education, particularly that of girls, and improving the quality of education; and enhancing technical and scientific capacity. To this end, the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system in their sphere of competence should support the efforts of African countries towards capacity-building for human resource development.

96. To this end, UNESCO, the specialized agency mandated with, inter alia, the promotion of education, has taken measures to help implement the statement adopted by the Seventh Conference of African Ministers of Education on extending and improving basic education for all African children. In this regard, a secretariat in the UNESCO office in Pretoria, South Africa, has been established to assist the Intergovernmental Committee to follow-up the recommendations of the Conference.

97. More specifically, UNESCO has been working jointly with UNDP, the World Bank, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WFP to provide support to the Government of Burkina Faso in establishing its 10-year plan on basic education for all (1998-2007). Similarly, UNESCO, together with the World Bank and UNDP, extended assistance in 1998 to the Government of Senegal in the preparation of a 10-year programme on basic education. Jointly with the World Bank, UNESCO launched a programme for improving the learning perspective for primary education in rural Africa in six African countries.

98. UNESCO, in collaboration with UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank, has developed a strategy to support basic education in the 16 low-enrolment countries in Africa. This is aimed to expand access to and improve the quality of education, with special emphasis on the education of girls. This partnership is progressing well. The World Bank is supporting Education Sector Development Programmes in 15 African countries. For example Ethiopia and Mozambique, have put in place Sector Investment Programmes (SIPs) with the support of UNESCO and the World Bank. The programme in Ethiopia is aimed to increase access to education, especially at the primary level, improve the quality of basic education and increase access of girls to education. It is anticipated that the programme will reverse low enrolment levels and move towards universal primary education by 2015. Besides the two major Education Sector Development Programmes, a third was approved for Senegal by the World Bank Board in April 2000. The Programme in Senegal is aimed at providing greater equitable access to higher-quality education.

99. The education sector strategic programme was approved for Mozambique by the World Bank Board in February 1999, for a total cost of $717.2 million, of which $71 million would be financed by the World Bank. The Programme aims to provide universal basic

education by 2010. The education sector development programmes are expected to be completed for external funding for additional five African countries by the end of 2000. The programme aims to effect the attainment of universal primary education, and improve the quality of education through teacher upgrading programmes and greater availability of textbooks and related teaching and learning material. The preparatory process of the project has been supported by the Norwegian Education Trust Fund, African Governments and the United Nations system joint programme on basic education for all (2000-2004).

100. Similarly, in Madagascar, United Nations bodies (UNESCO, UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO and WHO) have jointly committed $25 million support to the Government in developing a programme to support basic education for all children in the country. This five-year programme (2000-2004) is aimed at covering nine components, including increased access to education, and development of technical and vocational skills as well as endogenous capacity-building for the development and provision of basic learning and teaching material. UNESCO is implementing three projects in francophone West Africa, aiming to strengthen national and regional capacities in the areas of research, training and programme activities.

101. As part of its work on human resource capacity-building, ECA organized in February 2000 a regional conference on brain drain and capacity-building in Africa. The objective of the meeting was to analyse the factors contributing to the large exodus of the trained and skilled individuals from the continent and to propose measures for reversing the current situation.

102. There have been significant gains in the enrolment of girls over the last few years in several African countries, including Chad, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Programmes on gender sensitization of teachers have been funded by the World Bank and other partners. These programmes have contributed to countering gender bias in the classroom. Gender issues are also being addressed in sector enrolment programmes and sector-wide approaches in some African countries. However, sustaining interest in the long-term process remains a challenge owing to the difficulty of obtaining funds for ongoing efforts, especially when some African countries have accepted the importance of the education of girls and commitment thereto.

103. In adult literacy, the World Bank launched, within the context of the Special Initiative, a programme designed to increase support for adult literacy in African countries. UNDP has funded a programme to the tune of about $1 million to improve literacy rates among women and girls in the Gambia. The goal is to expand access of women to formal education, including improving functional literacy to enable them to participate in income-generating activities. Through the World Bank Development Facility, funds have been assigned to UNICEF to build local capacity in educational statistics. The low-enrolment countries are receiving priority in terms of the allocation of such resources.

104. Notwithstanding a number of activities carried out by the United Nations system, African countries and the international donor community, the low enrolment in primary education (76.8 per cent in 1997) and the high growth of the school-age population means that African countries have difficulty in keeping enrolment levels constant. The proportion of the school-age population not enrolled remains high, while the schooling rate for girls continues to be low in many African countries, despite the efforts to address this problem. Though some improvements were recorded in primary school enrolment levels in the late 1990s, the rates of the 1980 have not been reattained. Enrolment rates at all level of education in Africa lag behind those in other developing regions as well as the developed countries.

105. Low enrolment rates undermine economic growth and without adult literacy rate of well over 50 per cent, a country cannot enjoy sustainable economic progress. In 1997, the literacy rate in sub-Saharan Africa was 58.2 per cent compared with 84.8 per cent for Latin America and the Caribbean and 98 per cent for more developed regions. Similarly, secondary and tertiary education enrolments in 1997 of 26.2 per cent and 3.9 per cent, respectively, though an improvement over those of 1990, are clearly inadequate to meet the challenges of the new millennium characterized by a knowledge-based society and information economy.

106. There is also the need to build up an adequate and well-trained scientific and technological capacity through appropriate education and research programmes. African countries could benefit from their development partners based on the specific recommendations made within the Science Agenda: Framework for Action[10] adopted by the World

Conference on Science: Science for the Twenty-first Century: A New Commitment, held in Budapest, Hungary, from 26 June to 1 July 1999. The Dakar Framework for Action entitled "Education for All: Meeting our Collective Commitments",[11] adopted at the World Education Forum held in Dakar in April 2000, has reinforced the need for collective commitment of action — through broad-based partnerships among Governments and other partners to achieve the goals and targets of education for all by 2015. The issue of the decline in the quality of education is also of concern as demonstrated by the high rates of repetition and low completion or high drop-out rates at the primary school level. Such wastage represents a high cost of education.

107. A number of factors contribute to create such a situation, including inadequate resources — financial resources as well as learning and teaching facilities — and limited school places in the midst of an increase in the number of the school-age population. Such low levels of educational attainment of the population in Africa indicate that concerted efforts will need to be made in all these areas, including improving and expanding access of girls and women to education, and improving the institutional capacity of African countries to deliver high-quality education as well as improving relevance and appropriateness of education to meet the emerging challenges of the twenty-first century characterized by the knowledge explosion and information technology. The limited human resource base and capacity of many African countries is further being eroded through the brain drain and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic.

2. Health:

The mid-term review recommended that African countries should increase access to and improve the efficiency of primary health care. It further recommended that African countries should actively support, in cooperation with relevant entities of the United Nations, efforts to intensify the struggle against malaria and continue to combat the effects of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and to implement effective responses.

108. In response to improving the efficiency of primary health care, WHO/Africa Region (AFRO) supported in 1998-1999 the elaboration of a regional strategy and framework for the development of human resources for health. In this regard, guidelines were developed for curriculum design for nurses and midwives. It is estimated that malaria kills more than 1 million people per year in Africa, mostly children. Analysing the effects of malaria on 27 African economies between 1965 and 1990, a study by the Harvard University Centre for International Development and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine found that the disease cut the economic growth rate of these economies by 1 percentage point a year. The study suggests that developed countries could significantly reduce the disease by providing resources to the amount of $1 billion a year to control malaria in the affected countries in Africa.

109. WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank jointly launched a global "Roll Back Malaria" campaign aimed at reducing the rate of death among young children as a result of malaria by 50 per cent by 2010. Out of the current 33 malaria control projects, 27 of them are in Africa. Since the revitalization of the Roll Back Malaria campaign in 1998, WHO has undertaken activities on the prevention and control of the disease. These include strengthening planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of malaria control activities in 25 African countries, including the establishment of sentinel sites and anti-malaria drug efficacy; and promoting large-scale use of insecticide-treated materials.

110. WHO has also supported African countries in developing plans of action, through immunization, against tuberculosis and poliomyelitis. WHO prepared a draft health protocol to the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (A/46/651, annex) and the Protocol for Relations between the African Economic Community and the Regional Economic Communities.

111. The World Bank has, during the period under review, assisted African countries in the development and implementation of health sector reforms, with focus on major diseases, for example, malaria, HIV/AIDS, as well as development of more focused assistance strategies in areas such as reproductive health, pharmaceuticals and vaccines. As part of an effort to exchange experience on health reform and

sector programmes with country teams, the first intercountry meeting on health co-organized by the World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the African Development Bank, UNDP and UNESCO, was held in Benin in November 1998. It resulted in the formulating of a plan that is essential for successful health reform in African countries.

112. UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and the World Bank continue to work together on reduction of maternal mortality, which is closely related to HIV/AIDS and malaria in Africa, as well as to female genital mutilation. UNICEF has supported a wide range of field programmes and policy development measures including decentralized systems of maternal mortality monitoring, improved maternal nutrition, and the establishment of community-based communications and transportation systems to ensure access to emergency obstetric care. In 1999, UNICEF allocated about $14 million from its Fund's general resources to accelerate programmes related to HIV/AIDS, malaria and immunization, including polio eradication. As one of the world's largest purchaser of polio vaccine, UNICEF has played a pivotal role in eradicating polio which now remains in only 22 African countries.

113. UNICEF and WHO have collaborated in an immunization programme to significantly reduce infant and child mortality rates. Vaccines for hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) are now available and other vaccines will shortly be on the market in Africa. National Immunization Days conducted in 33 African countries attain at least 80 per cent coverage. A Regional Polio Laboratory Network, consisting of 3 Regional Reference Laboratories and 12 National or Inter-Country Laboratories were created. Cold-chain rehabilitation plans were prepared in 13 countries and training in logistic and cold-chain management was provided to national logistics managers from 21 countries. Also, WHO supported the implementation of the directly observe treatment short course (DOTS) strategy for tuberculosis and plans of action to establish/improve tuberculosis laboratory quality control and assurance in many countries.

114. Combating HIV/AIDS in Africa has become a top priority for the United Nations organizations. In May 2000, a major initiative known as the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa (IPAA), was launched. It brings together, under the leadership of African Governments, the United Nations system, donor Governments, the private sector and civil society. Under this coalition, a common Framework for Action has been elaborated and a number of country-level initiatives have moved collaborative action forward. The goal of IPAA is to curtail the spread of the pandemic and to reduce sharply its impact on human suffering. In this regard, it has been agreed to take necessary action to ensure that by 2005 in the 24 most affected countries in Africa, at least 90 per cent of young people (between 15-24 years old) have access to information and skills needed to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infection, and that HIV incidence in the group is reduced by 25 per cent.

115. The Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS) is intensifying its technical support to Governments and non-governmental organizations to prevent and control HIV/AIDS in Africa. Cooperation in the search for an AIDS vaccine is intensifying with the creation of a new initiative by WHO and UNAIDS to promote the development of the vaccine. UNAIDS in May 2000 began a new dialogue between five pharmaceutical companies and other United Nations organizations to explore ways to accelerate and improve the provision of affordable HIV/AIDS-related care and treatment in developing countries. UNFPA has secured US$ 57 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates is the founder of Microsoft) for preventing and controlling HIV/AIDS among young people in Botswana, Ghana, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. FAO is implementing a project with UNDP/UNAIDS support to study the impact of HIV/AIDS on agricultural extension services and field operations in two sub-Saharan African countries.

116. In addition to activities of the United Nations agencies, it is worth noting the efforts of high-ranking members of the community of African mayors and municipal leaders with respect to HIV/AIDS in Africa, who visited the United States in November 1999 to seek broad support for combating HIV/AIDS in Africa. The Thirteenth International Conference on AIDS, held in South Africa in July 2000, further reinforced the need to take concerted action to deal with the pandemic ravaging African countries. The African Development Forum — II on AIDS, being organized in October 2000 by ECA, aims to identify concrete actions by African Governments and their development partners in the fight against this disease in Africa.

117. The challenges that HIV/AIDS poses are threatening the gains made towards the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. This issue is further elaborated as a critical development issue in section III of this report.

3. **Population:**

The mid-term review recommended that African countries should integrate their population policies into national development programmes and ensure the availability and promotion of reproductive health services.

118. Progress continues to be made in the integration of population into development policies, plans and programmes in Africa. This is due to increased awareness of population issues among the leadership; more involvement of Governments and community participation in the design and implementation of population activities, thus enhancing ownership; and increased expertise available at the country level to implement population programmes.

119. Successful male participation in reproductive health services has increased in many African countries, including Ghana, Namibia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Religious leaders have become important allies and are playing a major advocacy role in the implementation of reproductive health, family planning and sexual health activities in African countries. Twenty-two countries have officially adopted population policies and others are in the process of doing so. More than 15 countries are in the process of formulating or reviewing their national population policies to include recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development and other relevant international conferences.

120. UNFPA, in collaboration with ECA, ILO, UNESCO, FAO, WHO and UNIFEM, provides technical assistance to countries in Africa in the areas of reproductive health, including family planning, population and development strategies and advocacy. The aim of the technical assistance programme is to build national capacity and to contribute to the sustainability of national population programmes.

121. UNFPA and other partners including UNHCR and UNICEF are providing emergency reproductive health services to displaced persons/refugees in Mozambique, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Sierra Leone and Kenya. UNFPA organized in October 1998 a consultative meeting on its assistance in emergency situation, with the participation of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations agencies. This resulted in the improvement of UNFPA's involvement in humanitarian affairs in emergency situations.

122. UNFPA is facilitating and supporting the planning, conduct, analysis and dissemination of censuses in 26 African countries. In addition, UNFPA is collaborating with the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and SADC in preparation of the 2000 census initiative to harmonize census operations in the 14 SADC member States. The objective is to strengthen the capabilities of the SADC member countries in the collection, processing and dissemination of data.

123. UNFPA, UNICEF, and ECA collaborated in organizing activities relating to the youth and adolescent reproductive health forum which was held in 1998 at ECA, on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary celebration of the Commission, in which 22 African countries participated. "Adolescent Reproductive Health for Africa's Young People" was the theme of the meeting of the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians organized in Windhoek, Namibia, in July 2000 in collaboration with the Government of Namibia.

124. UNFPA, in collaboration with ECA, developed a prototype population, environment, development and agriculture computer model aimed at raising the awareness of African policy makers and planners on interlinkages of these issues and to promote the understanding of relationships between women's reproductive health and household food security. This model has been successfully disseminated in Africa.

125. Despite these efforts, Africa is still experiencing pervasive problems in effectively integrating population into development policies. Problems such as limited coverage/outreach of reproductive health services, insufficient number of trained personnel in reproductive health, and high staff mobility and attrition are among the most pervasive. These problems are slowing down the momentum of population programme implementation at the national level.

4. Water and sanitation

126. Water is an integral part of Africa's socio-economic development, including household water, agriculture, industry, hydropower generation, inland fisheries, inland water transportation and sanitation. The state of basic infrastructure for the essential utilities such as water and sanitation has declined for sub-Saharan Africa. In 1995, about 45 per cent of African population had access to safe water and only 37 per cent to sanitation compared with 84 per cent and 69 per cent respectively for the East Asia and the Pacific region. Improvements in the provision of such essential services have been slow owing to the lack of financial resources and difficulties in providing access to rural areas of Africa. A number of programmes and activities were carried out during the period under review by the United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations and supported by donor agencies to enhance access to safe water for safe drinking and distribution.

127. A Water Group chaired by UNEP collaborates with 10 United Nations system organizations and serves as the main channel for promoting partnership in this area. It focuses on implementation at the country level of the Africa region's water strategy through interrelated partnerships. The Water Group has identified four countries (Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique and Uganda) and the Zambezi River Basin for a pilot study focusing on an integrated approach to water management. The Water Working Group launched in Abidjan in November 1998 the Water and Sanitation Africa Initiative.

128. WMO has launched with the support of the World Bank, the European Commission and France a global programme for monitoring the hydrological cycle, intended to stimulate water resource assessment activities and capacity-building and strengthen basin-wide, regional and international cooperation in the field of integrated water resources management. Within the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS), two projects are currently being implemented: one in the Mediterranean region with the participation of 3 African countries, and the other in the Southern African region, with the participation of 11 countries.

129. A hydrologic data rescue project was recently initiated by WMO in five African countries (Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Togo and Uganda) as its pilot study. This project will cover the historical hydrologic data, which are essential for climate prediction and long-term planning of projects for water resource development and food security. Two drought-monitoring centres are operational in Nairobi and Harare. The centres will provide information and warnings on drought, forecasts of seasonal weather conditions and impact assessments of agricultural production and water resources in the subregion. Similarly, a project funded by Belgium became operational in 1998 in support of the Harare Drought Monitoring Centre.

130. UNICEF supports various programmes and technological development of Africa in the area of water and environmental sanitation. Its programmes include borehole development, hand pump operation and maintenance, community participation and low-cost sanitation promotion. UNICEF has continued to strengthen the Africa professional working group on Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council. Its programmes made a significant contribution in alleviating water, environment and sanitation (WES) problems by providing access to water supply to some 3.1 million people and sanitation to 1 million people. Impressive achievements have been made in Uganda and Guinea. Significant expansion of access to water was also achieved with UNICEF support in Rwanda and Somalia, using community-based approaches.

131. The Water for African Cities Programme is a concrete example of effective coordination of the United Nations work in Africa. It involves several agencies working together, with funding by the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and the political support of the participating countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia. The Programme focuses on access to fresh water, household water security and fresh-water assessment.

132. Notwithstanding the activities of the Water Working Group, major and sustainable progress in this area has yet to be made in terms of concrete programmes. In order to revitalize and renew commitments in this important area, a technical working group meeting involving the coordinating agencies (UNEP, the World Bank and WMO) was held under the chairmanship of ECA 2000 during the Second World Water Forum which took place in The Hague, the Netherlands, in March 2000. This consultation developed a forward-looking strategy

based on a shared vision, which created new partnerships where there is clearly value added, rationalizing institutional arrangements and effective communication. In May 2000, a draft strategy was discussed in an inter-agency meeting in Nairobi. At the Annual Regional Consultation of United Nations Agencies Working in Africa which was held in June 2000 in Addis Ababa, this draft strategy was considered and endorsed.

5. **Women in development:**

The mid-term review recommended that African countries should continue to ensure the integration of the gender perspective in policies relating to all spheres of development. They should continue to implement policies that empower women and promote their full and equal participation in political, economic and social development, including policies that promote the empowerment of the girl child.

133. On the whole, most African countries have demonstrated political will to addressing gender issues in development and enhancing the status of women. This has been reflected by the efforts of many African countries to put in place measures that would advance the rights of women and girls in all walks of life. As of 19 June 2000, 49 African countries had ratified the international Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[12] and of the four countries that have so far ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention,[13] two of them are in the African region — Namibia and Senegal. According to the ECA synthesis study (1999) of the national progress reports on the implementation of the Dakar[14] and Beijing Platforms for Action[15] much progress has been made by African countries in responding to recommendations reiterated during international, regional and national meetings. This political will is demonstrated through the formulation and implementation of national plans of action. Some countries undertook legal reforms, thus amending their constitutions and basic laws to underscore gender equality. Most African countries have established new or reinforced existing mechanisms to promote the advancement of women.

134. A number of United Nations agencies have assisted African countries in mainstreaming gender issues in development policies. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is actively involved in efforts to encourage African States to submit the reports required under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. To encourage implementation of the Convention, UNIFEM has launched a series of projects to strengthen the capacity of women's groups, the media and the legal profession to use the Convention as a tool to bring gender equality. UNIFEM has also launched a two-year campaign for a life free of violence against women and girls and supports 56 projects in Africa through its Trust Fund aimed at eliminating gender-based violence against women. FAO prepared a strategy for action on rural women and information which was reviewed at a high-level consultation in October 1999 at FAO headquarters. The FAO Conference at its thirtieth session in November 1999 recommended that this strategy, aiming to utilize gender-sensitive statistical methodologies, would form an integral part of the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action (2002-2007).

135. In an effort to enhance the participation of women entrepreneurs in the formal sector, UNCTAD carried out a series of studies in selected least developed countries, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Madagascar, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, to assess the impact of policies and identify measures for promoting women entrepreneurs in the formal sector of these countries.

136. In response to implementing the recommendation relating to mainstreaming and integrating women in development, ECA organized a series of regional meetings to assist member States with the formulation and assessment of national action plans and guide them on how to report on progress made and constraints faced. In 1998, ECA prepared 53 country profiles on the status of women in Africa, which are intended to serve as information, sensitization and advocacy tools to show the extent to which African countries have implemented the international instruments. In the case of conflict and post-conflict situations, UNHCR has initiated the Action for the Rights of Children Programme aimed at ensuring that girls and boys benefit equally from all protection and assistance programmes.

137. ILO has assisted African countries in developing programmes that focus on legislation protecting the rights of women in the areas of recruitment, remuneration and advancement on the job. One of the constraints that women in Africa face with regard to

their access to employment is their lack of education and training. ILO has assisted African countries in preparing education and training programmes for women so as to improve their access to better jobs in the formal sector. The Action Programme "More and Better Jobs for Women" has been formulated for Burkina Faso. Similarly, ILO has assisted the Government of Madagascar in formulating the "Programme de Travaux Communautaires à Haute Intensite de Main D'oeuvre en Zones Urbaines" targeted primarily at poor women. The Programme provides food for work and essential social services, including primary health care. ILO has also addressed gender issues in its Jobs for Africa Programme, the Social Dialogue Initiative and the In-Focus Programmes on Crisis Response and Reconstruction in Post-conflict Countries.

138. On their part, African regional and subregional organizations have established networks or specialized services to promote the advancement of women in Africa. These include a special unit on gender issues in OAU, the West Africa Women Association, the Central Africa Women Economic Network, and a gender unit in SADC. The African Development Bank also provides special gender focus and perspective in its development projects in African countries. FAO is providing technical assistance to government institutions in Africa to ensure a gender focus in policy formulation and design in the agricultural sector. FAO, through its Farm-level Applied Research Methods in East and Southern Africa (FARMESA) project, and in collaboration with IFAD, carried out a study in selected African countries to identify constraints and possibilities that women farmers experience in their access to improved production tools. FAO is also implementing the Local Indigenous Knowledge System (LINKS) project in Mozambique, to enhance the understanding of local knowledge systems both by male and by female food producers; and the interlinkages among gender, biodiversity and local knowledge systems.

139. One of the critical constraints to African women's effective participation in economic activities is their lack of/limited access to financial resources. In recognition of this limitation, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs initiated a project on "Microcredit, community development and poverty eradication in Africa". Funded by the Government of Japan through the Gender in Development Programme of UNDP, the project aims to demonstrate the contribution of microfinance in eradicating poverty. The target beneficiaries of the project are mostly women entrepreneurs in small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa.

140. Notwithstanding the efforts of African countries and those of their development partners, including civil society, gender gaps persist in all spheres of economic, social and political areas. According to the UNIFEM report on *The Progress of the World's Women 2000*,[16] which seeks to measure progress made since the Fourth World Conference on Women, some progress has been made in reducing overall adult illiteracy rates in Africa, but more women than men remain illiterate. Similar gender gaps exist in formal education at all levels. Although some African countries have bridged gender gaps at the primary school level, progress has been slow at secondary and, especially, tertiary levels. Women's access to employment and income-generation is also lower than that of men and this is demonstrated by the high incidence of poverty among women.

141. In the political domain, women continue to be severely under-represented: about 11 per cent are represented in sub-Saharan Africa, except in South Africa where 30 per cent of women are represented in national parliament. South Africa is one of the 16 countries in the world where women's representation in national parliaments is above 25 per cent. Although Africa is home to 70 per cent of the world's population infected with HIV/AIDS, studies show that African women constitute 80 per cent of all women living with the disease.

142. The continued under-representation of women in economic, social, political and other areas in Africa is due to the interplay of discriminatory social, cultural practices, over time, including certain legal barriers. The profiles on African women prepared by ECA can help Governments to overcome these forms of discrimination by focusing on their various aspects and by encouraging renewed action to promote the integration and participation of women in national development, including the decision-making process.

J. Regional and subregional cooperation and integration:

To accelerate regional and subregional cooperation and integration, the mid-term review recommended that African countries should: accelerate the process of harmonizing and rationalizing the institutional framework for regional and subregional integration and the number of institutions in order to minimize duplication and ensure a more efficient use of resources; and provide necessary resources for financial and institutional support, especially in transport and communications, and pool resources for human development. It also recommended that the private sector should be further encouraged to participate in promoting regional and subregional economic cooperation; and the international community should complement Africa's efforts towards regional integration.

143. During the period under review, ECA's activities in the area of regional cooperation and integration focused on providing a range of technical assistance through its regional advisory services and subregional Development Centres for strengthening the various regional economic communities that serve as building blocks for the continent's integration. It has assisted in the restructuring of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) secretariat and worked with SADC in the development of the Southern African Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC) framework for a road safety programme. It is currently providing support for the revitalization of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), working with the Arab Maghreb Union in reviewing the transport system for the Arab Maghreb states, and is assisting in the restructuring of ECOWAS.

144. The Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration, which was set up by the ECA Conference of Ministers in May 1997, has continued to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices by the regional economic communities. ECA facilitated consensus-building around common African positions in the context of global trade and other relevant negotiations (for example, WTO and UNCTAD), organizing meetings of African trade ministers and experts and providing training on analytical, communication and negotiation skills for African negotiators.

145. IMF closely collaborates with the various regional economic organizations in the form of intensive consultations in areas such as the regional monetary policy, trade liberalization, common investment codes and fiscal harmonization. It is one of the co-sponsoring agencies for the Cross-border Initiative, which is now being reinstituted as the Regional Integration Facilitation Forum (RIFF). In this context, IMF's technical assistance to African countries supports the efforts of the African Economic Community to foster regional economic integration and cooperation.

146. UNDP, in collaboration with ECA and the African Development Bank, has continued to provide assistance to OAU in the implementation of the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) through capacity development. The UNDP project initially centred on the development of the protocols needed for the establishment of AEC, and now focuses on providing technical assistance to OAU for the establishment of a cooperative and collaborative framework for the subregional AEC and the promotion of the Abuja Treaty. The technical assistance provided through this project was instrumental in the establishment of the technical prerequisites of the recent establishment of East African Cooperation (EAC).

147. Based on the experience of South-East Asian nations, the concept of the growth triangle as a fast-track approach to regional integration and economic cooperation is being introduced in Africa through the UNDP Africa's Programme for Innovative Cooperation Among the South (PICAS). This concept is based on the active involvement of private sector in forging regional cooperation and integration. A pilot subregional growth triangle has been identified in Zambia-Malawi and Mozambique, known as the ZMM-GT. Pre-feasibility studies have since 1999 taken root. This is an encouraging initiative towards regional

cooperation and integration through the involvement of the private sector.

148. UNEP has supported African countries in the formulation of environmental policies and policy instruments, as well as regional and subregional cooperation frameworks. Similarly, ITU promoted major telecom projects: the Pan-African Telecommunications Network PANAFTEL and Regional African Satellite Communication System (RASCOM) networks in Africa.

149. UNESCO has continued to work towards promoting regional and subregional cooperation in the area of telematics and information society through a Regional Information Network for Africa which links focal points in 42 African countries concerned with promoting the use of information and communication technologies in development. Activities have included support for subregional training courses and promotion of the African content of the World Wide Web for educational, scientific, social and cultural development. UNESCO holds regular meetings on the framework of the joint OAU-UNESCO Commission on Cooperation. It has been agreed that UNESCO would provide technical assistance to OAU in drawing up a protocol on education and culture to be annexed to the Abuja Treaty.

150. SADC in cooperation with UNIDO organized in 1998 at Windhoek, Namibia, a workshop with a view to defining and formulating industrial policy and strategies for SADC. UNIDO provided support for the leather sector in Eastern Africa, through a regional project involving nine countries, namely, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. UNIDO is also cooperating with EU in providing assistance to improve product quality and standards in member States of WAEMU. This proposal is currently undergoing finalization.

151. WMO has continued to support activities related to the application of meteorological and hydrologic information to the sustainable development plans of subregional groupings, such as ECOWAS, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Indian Ocean Commission and SADC. The information used in development activities related to food production, water resource management and management and mitigation of weather and climate-related disasters.

152. It is encouraging to note that since the mid-term review of the New Agenda, significant efforts have been made and practical steps taken by the various regional economic communities to harmonize and coordinate their activities and policies at the regional level for the effective implementation of trade liberalization and cooperation programmes. Most of them are aimed at establishing free trade areas and subsequently a customs union through the fixing of a common tariff. For example, ECOWAS is about to eliminate all tariff and non-tariff barriers to interregional trade for products that satisfy its rules of origin. A regional capital market has been established through the creation of a regional stock exchange in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and a number of private sector-driven projects are in the pipeline, including the establishment of a regional airline, a West African coastal shipping line and the Chad-Cameroon Petroleum Development and Pipeline Project, extending the promise of increased trade to the entire African region.

153. The above progress notwithstanding, a number of factors hinder effective regional cooperation and integration, including overlapping country membership in regional economic communities, inadequate financing of the existing regional economic communities, lack of policy convergence and harmonization and prevalence of conflicts in some countries/subregions. Institutional capacities are still weak and resources inadequate for the tasks ahead.

K. South-South cooperation:

The mid-term review recommended that African countries should intensify consultations with other developing regions to strengthen South-South exchanges and to build on achievements already realized through technical cooperation among developing countries. It further recommended that the international community should continue to support triangular arrangements.

154. With regard to implementing the recommendations of the mid-term review, recent activities initiated by the United Nations on

cooperation between African and other developing countries have mainly focused on investment and trade opportunities between Africa and Asia. A number of such activities were held in Asia during the period under review from which African countries have benefited. For example, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs co-organized with the Government of Japan and the Global Coalition for Africa the Second Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which was held in Tokyo, Japan, in October 1998. One of the objectives of the Conference was to strengthen and expand South-South cooperation. The Conference adopted the Tokyo Agenda for Action (A/53/559, annex I).

155. As a follow up to the Agenda for Action, an Asia-Africa meeting organized by UNDP/Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC) and sponsored by the Governments of Japan and Malaysia was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in October 1999. It sought to bring together business persons from Africa and Asia to provide the opportunity for concrete deals between the participating companies. The total value of deals (trade and investment reported) at the end of April 2000 was estimated to have amounted to $100 million. In view of the success of the first Business Forum, the Government of Japan has agreed to support a second Forum to be held in Africa in 2001.

156. In response to the Secretary-General's recommendation contained in his 1998 report on Africa to the Security Council and the General Assembly that improved South-South cooperation be used to reinforce export-led growth, the Government of the Republic of Korea in collaboration with the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized in December 1998 the Asia-Africa Forum on Export Promotion, held at Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Forum aimed to help African countries adopt appropriate measures for export promotion and exchange information with Asian participants about trade and investment opportunities in Africa. As a follow-up to the Seoul Forum, a training programme for African policy makers was conducted in July-August 2000 by the Korean International Cooperation Agency with the support of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. The programme was aimed specifically at addressing the human resource component of capacity-building for export promotion in African countries.

157. In 1999, an Asia-Africa Investment and Technology Promotion Centre was established in Kuala Lumpur with the objective of facilitating investment opportunities in Africa through Asian investment experience. The Centre funded by Japan was established by UNIDO and with additional support. The Government of India announced in 1998 the establishment of a $30 million trust fund for promoting trade, investment and technology-sharing experiences for revitalizing trade with and investment in Africa.

158. In an effort to assist African countries in achieving economic and social development through accelerated development of human and institutional capacity, as well as agricultural and private sector development, the Governments of Japan and Malaysia, UNDP, the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Global Coalition for Africa organized the Third Asia-Africa Forum, held in Kuala Lumpur in May 2000. This Forum provided an opportunity for African public policy makers, technical experts and private sector representatives of African and Asian countries to discuss and exchange views on enhancing human and institutional capacity for sustainable development in Africa. The Forum adopted the Kuala Lumpur New Millennium Statement.

III. Conclusion: some critical development issues affecting the implementation of the New Agenda

A. Globalization of the world economy

159. Globalization is characterized primarily by the removal of barriers to trade and investment resulting in a rapid growth of international trade and capital flows across countries, and national capital markets becoming increasingly integrated. This phenomenon has brought about greater integration of production processes, global standardization of products, harmonization of economic policies, and regional groupings. Globalization is also characterized by knowledge-intensity and innovations in production across all sectors of human endeavour. Information and

communication technologies (ICT) are facilitating the dissemination and diffusion of information through the Internet at an unimaginable speed. As a result, the costs of transport, travel and communicating information have fallen dramatically. It is clearly the availability of cheap, rapid and reliable communications that permits globalization and the integration of the international capital market. Countries that open themselves to international trade and provide an enabling environment for business can attract FDI and increase capital flows critical for economic growth. In addition to attracting capital, they also benefit from intellectual capital or technical know-how associated with FDI.

160. While globalization is a source of tremendous opportunities/advantages as mentioned above, it also brings new problems, as countries that are not competitive enough to tap into these opportunities can be marginalized. In the case of Africa, globalization has resulted in a deepening of the continent's marginalization. For example, Africa's trade accounted for only 1.5 per cent of global trade in 1998. Export earnings remain small, having declined from 3.2 per cent of world export revenues in 1985 to 2.3 per cent in 1990 and to 1.5 per cent in 1995. African exports are dominated by agricultural products (primary commodities), rendering the continent's export-earning capacity highly sensitive to commodity price fluctuations.

161. The competitiveness of African least developed countries in terms of their share of global trade and export earnings is even lower. A number of structural problems continue to hinder the expansion of exports from Africa. Higher transport costs associated with distance from major industrialized countries, weak infrastructure, including communications, and the landlocked status of many African countries tend to weaken the competitiveness of African exports. In addition, African exports are concentrated in a narrow range of products, generally traditional commodities. As a result, African countries are generally unable to tap into niche markets. Tariff peaks and escalation and agriculture support policies through subsidies by developed countries constrain the development of export-oriented growth in many African countries. In addition, non-tariff barriers, such as sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, are too stringent and many African countries are unable to meet the required standards. For these reasons and others, African countries are unable to benefit from the opportunities in new market openings for exports and they therefore remain marginal players in world trade and investment.

162. Africa is also marginalized from the rising rate of FDI in developing countries. FDI in developing countries increased from $2.2 billion in the 1970s to $165 billion in 1998 and $192 billion in 1999. Africa, however, has not benefited from these rapid increases. Its share of FDI in 1998 represented just over 4 per cent or $6.6 billion of total flows to developing countries. This is clearly very small, considering that the returns to FDI in Africa are much higher than elsewhere and that many African countries have put in place an enabling environment for investment.

163. African countries are behind the developed and even some developing countries in terms of availability of production technology, information and communication technology. They lack the skills and the infrastructure needed to effectively participate in the global economy which is increasingly transforming the way economic activity, including business transactions, is all carried out. For example, Africa's almost 800 million inhabitants share 152,000 Internet hosts, that is to say, about 0.3 per cent of the world's total access to the Internet. In addition to this least degree of access to Internet hosts and users, there is the factor of African web sites offering incomplete and sometimes inaccurate information. This is due to the lack of adequate information and communication infrastructure, and lack of expertise in the area of graphics and web design, including production and management, as well as low awareness of the benefits that the information technology can bring.

164. African countries need to implement policies to benefit from the opportunities presented in the globalized economy. This calls for putting in place appropriate macroeconomic policies that would attract FDI, liberalizing trade with care, diversifying economies and improving the management of capital flows, and massive investment in human resource development. In addition, broader and deeper regional economic cooperation and integration should become a framework for integrating African economies in the global economy. African countries will also need to upgrade the skills of their people and invest substantially in human resource development to meet the challenges presented by the global economy. At the same time, access of population to ICT in an affordable and reliable manner is also critical if African countries

are to improve their competitiveness in the global economy.

B. Mobilization of financial resources

165. The need for the effective mobilization of financial resources remains a critical development challenge for the African region. Domestic savings and investment rates in the region have continued to be low and inadequate, while capital flight remains pervasive. Therefore, the low rates of domestic savings and investment need to be increased through increased revenue mobilization, including providing an enabling environment and innovative approaches to attracting private investment, and improved financial intermediation as well as judicious use of capital resources to en ure their greater efficiency. At the same time, addition l resources by the international community would also need to be provided to supplement domestic resources so as to meet the myriad development challenges facing the region.

166. It should be recalled in this regard that it had been estimated that a minimum of $30 billion in net ODA was required in 1992, after which it would have to increase at an average annual rate of 4 per cent to achieve a growth rate of 6 per cent per annum so as to reduce the proportion of people living in absolute poverty. The African region in the new millennium faces even more daunting challenges than in the decade of the 1990s. As mentioned in paragraph 10, an economic growth rate of 7-8 per cent per annum would be required if African countries are to make a significant dent in poverty reduction. This would necessitate a much higher level of resources compared with the estimates in the New Agenda.

167. Given the critical importance attached by member States to the issue of resource flows for African development, a report on this subject entitled "Mobilization of additional resources for African development: a study on overall resource flows to Africa" (A/55/350/Add.1) is submitted as an addendum to this progress report. According to the addendum, between 1992 and 1998, net aggregate resource flows to Africa had been erratic, fluctuating from $22.2 billion in 1992 to a high of $28.2 billion in 1995, and thereafter declining to $23.4 billion in 1996 and increasing to $26.0 billion in 1997. Such flows declined steeply to $17.1 billion in 1998 or by 22 per cent annually from 1995 to 1998. There are indications of some improvement in the external resource flows to Africa in 1999. Data available only for sub-Saharan Africa show total net aggregate resource flows of $17.5 billion in 1999 compared with about $15 billion in 1998, that is to say, an increase of about 17 per cent in 1999 over 1998.

168. Not only have African countries received a small share of total external resource flows to developing countries, but the fluctuations in resources from year to year are in marked contrast to the steady and increasing flow to other developing regions. Thus, developing countries as a group recorded aggregate net resource flows of $143.9 billion in 1992 and $318.3 billion in 1998, representing an increase of more than 20 per cent annually during that period. Africa's share in this total resource flows not only has declined in absolute terms but also has fallen in percentage terms, from 15.5 per cent in 1992 to 5.3 per cent in 1998. A detailed analysis of resource flows by type of flows to Africa and recommendations for increased resource mobilization are made in the addendum to this report.

C. The challenge of HIV/AIDS

169. Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's region worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Currently about 24 million Africans are living with HIV/AIDS, representing almost 70 per cent of the world's total in a region that is home to 12 per cent of the world's population. It is estimated that 14 million people in Africa have already died from this disease. In 1998 alone, an estimated 2.2 million people in Africa died of AIDS, a number which was 10 times more than the death toll of war. In 1999, about 4 million adults in Africa were newly infected with HIV/AIDS, representing almost two thirds of global new infections.

170. HIV/AIDS in Africa is not only taking a devastating toll on human suffering, but also jeopardizing economic growth, social development, political stability, family and social cohesion. Life expectancy at birth in some of the most affected 29 African countries has declined by 7 years, and in some severely affected countries, by 20 years. Life expectancy is expected to decline by 21 years between 2005-2010. Since the disease is affecting the relatively young adults, African countries will soon experience a change in demographic profiles, meaning that there will be fewer adults, while the proportion of older

people and children will increase. This would have implications in terms of the dependency ratio, placing greater financial burden on the declining number of the workforce.

171. HIV/AIDS is also affecting the quality of the workforce, as it is the most productive workers who are being affected. Many are experienced, educated and skilled workers, in both blue- and white-collar jobs, and in management, executive and other high-demand professions, who cannot be easily replaced. Such a situation is eroding the human resource capacity built up in most African countries since their gaining political independence. In some countries in Southern Africa, the fact that about 30 per cent of teachers are infected poses a tremendous challenge for the development of human resources. Productivity in workplaces suffers, as it takes time to replace skilled, experienced and senior workers. Reduction in productivity and losses in output also negatively affect the competitiveness of the African economies. The World Bank estimates that per capita economic growth in African countries with high prevalence rates of HIV/AIDS can be lower by 0.33 per year. The impact of the pandemic on children is devastating when they lose their parents and are forced into a situation of assuming the responsibility of the head of household. HIV/AIDS also has a gender dimension in Africa, as studies suggest that more women than men are infected with the disease.

172. HIV/AIDS is not only a health issue but it has also become a key human security problem in sub-Saharan Africa in three interrelated ways: firstly, it has rapidly destabilizing social and economic consequences in all sectors of human activity; secondly, it poses a serious threat to the military and its interaction with the civilian population; thirdly, it is a threat to the political stability of severely affected countries with a fragile and complex geopolitical system. In recognition of this human security dimension, the Security Council devoted a special session in January 2000 to HIV/AIDS in Africa. Since then, this issue has received greater attention from the international community at large.

173. Some developed countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Italy, Norway and others, have committed themselves to providing support for the prevention activities in Africa. Private corporations, especially pharmaceutical companies, have also increased their efforts to confront the pandemic. However, more resources would be required both from African countries themselves and from the international community to fight against the disease. UNAIDS estimates that it would cost $2 billion to 3 billion a year for prevention efforts alone in Africa. There is growing awareness among African leaders about the gravity of the pandemic in their respective countries and the need to take measures to control and prevent the disease. In countries where strong political leadership, openness about the issues, information campaigns and prevention programmes have been put together, the spread of the disease has been contained.

174. The challenges at the end of the 1980s, namely, improved governance and democracy and economic recovery have been addressed by African countries and there is no doubt that there has been significant progress. However, new challenges that have emerged and intensified in the 1990s have, in many cases, reversed the progress that was noted in the mid-term review of the New Agenda in 1996. The range and spread of conflicts, the majority of which are internal, and the emergence of new and old diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS, have become the major threats to African economies and societies. The inability of the majority of African countries to effectively respond to the emergence of an increasingly liberalized and competitive global economy also continues to hamper their prospects for sustainable development. The final review and appraisal of the New Agenda scheduled for 2002 presents the international community with another opportunity not only to maintain the high level of attention focused on Africa, but also to re-examine and reshape its approach to partnership with Africa and to come up with innovative strategies for its sustainable development.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.II.D.1.

[4] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[5] See *The ACP-EEC Courier*, No. 120 — March/April 1990, yellow pages.

[6] See *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996, Part one* (Rome, FAO, 1997), appendix.

[7] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[8] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[9] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[10] Accessible at http://www.unesco.org/science/wcs/eng/framework.htm

[11] Accessible at http://www2.unesco.org/wef/en-conf/dakframeng.shtm

[12] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

[13] General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex.

[14] E/CN.6/1995/5/Add.2.

[15] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[16] New York, UNIFEM, 2000.

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Admission of new Members to the United Nations

Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Note verbale dated 5 September 2000 from the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform that the Chinese Mission to the United Nations attaches importance to the desire of Tuvalu to be admitted to membership in the United Nations. In considering the admission of Tuvalu to the United Nations, the Chinese Mission believes it most essential that the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations should be fully complied with, that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971 should be implemented and that the new Member State should fulfil its Charter obligations and comply with resolutions of the United Nations.

On the basis of this principled position, the Chinese Mission finds itself unable to join the consensus of the General Assembly on the admission of Tuvalu to membership in the United Nations.

The Chinese Mission hopes that, after it joins the United Nations, Tuvalu will strictly comply with resolutions of the United Nations, including General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

The Chinese Mission would be grateful if the Secretary-General of the United Nations would have the present note verbale circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 19 and 57 of the provisional agenda.

* A/55/150.

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